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FIRST DRAFT
CONFIDENTIAL
PRELIMINARY SURVEY
OF COUNTY PLANNING PROBLEMS
IN
LEWIS COUNTY
KENTUCKY

W.P.A. PROJECT NO. 265-6905

State Planning Staff
of Kentucky

1937

FOREWORD

The following preliminary survey of planning problems in Lewis County is one of a series covering the several counties in Kentucky. Its purpose is to assemble fundamental facts bearing upon the development of the county and to show their comprehensive relationships. The application of these facts to planning for physical, economic and social welfare must be made by the citizens of the counties themselves, and its success depends entirely upon their vision and initiative. Intelligent planning for the improvement of living conditions and opportunities for gainful employment, and the adjustment of physical requirements to meet these needs will result in a better county and a better state. The State Planning Staff is anxious to co-operate in any way possible with the county in its endeavor to solve its planning problems.

Valuable assistance from many Lewis County residents is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

LEWIS COUNTY

SUMMARY

1. Lewis County is in the northeast section of the state.
2. It is the toe of the Knobs Belt, east of the Bluegrass.
3. It has an extended front on the Ohio River.
4. It is hilly throughout.
5. Fertility depends not a little upon topography and the extent of erosion.
6. The total area of the county is 314,240 acres of which 80,000 to 85,000 are suitable for crops.
7. The population has been declining since 1900.
8. There are relatively few foreign-born inhabitants.
9. Rural housing is fair to good depending upon farm income.
10. Varnsburg has its own water system.
11. Much remains to be done to the end of improving sanitation.
12. The creeks are not seriously polluted.
13. The county maintains an adequate county health office.
14. There are no hospitals in this county.
15. The county is predominantly agricultural.
16. Tobacco is the chief crop.
17. Minerals play no part in connection with county activities.
18. Manufacturing is represented by a single plant.
19. The farmers have begun to conserve crop soil.
20. The county roads are not well kept.
21. The county jail is in poor condition.
22. Rural electrification consists of some 14 miles of power lines.
23. School consolidation is in progress.
24. The sinking fund and interest on the county's bonded debt absorb about one-fourth the entire county budget.

GEOGRAPHY

Lewis County is located in northeast Kentucky. The Ohio River, flowing in a generally westward direction, is its northern boundary. Somewhat U-shaped in form, it is bounded on the east by Greenup and Carter counties, on the south and southwest by Rowan and Fleming counties and on the west by Mason County. Its area of 491 square miles forms the toe of the Kentucky Knobs Belt east of the Bluegrass. Twelfth of the Kentucky counties in point of size, Lewis County is divided into eight magisterial districts. The county seat is Vanceburg, on the Ohio River, about midway of the northern boundary.

TOPOGRAPHY

The terrain of Lewis County is hilly throughout. Vanceburg, is 528 feet above sea level and the general relief is about 250 feet.

The Reconnaissance Erosion Survey of the Soil Conservation Service reveals the following surface conditions:

A tract along the eastern side of the county; slight sheet erosion, with occasional gullies; a tract to the west of the former, extending across the southern end of the county, to the Rowan and Fleming county lines, at a point east of Flemingsburg; moderate sheet erosion with occasional gullies; land of some width along the course of Salt Creek; severe sheet erosion, with frequent gullies. The remainder of the county, chiefly a strip south of the Ohio River, covering the northwest section: severe sheet erosion, with occasional gullies.

GEOLOGY

The hard rock presents a rather long sequence of Paleozoic sediments, ranging from the uppermost Ordovician beds, upward, through the Silurian, Devonian and Mississippian, into the basal Pottsville (Pennsylvanian). Both clastic and organic sediments, including limestones, sandstones, sandstone conglomerates, shales and a few coal streaks, are present in this stratigraphic sequence. The lower waters of Kinniconick and Salt Lick creeks, as well as the entire flood plain of the Ohio River, bounding the county on the north, exhibit thick alluvial sediments of Recent and Pleistocene age, and consist of sands, clays and gravels, some of glacial origin. Old glacial deposits of infrequent occurrence are present in the form of an isolated gneissic boulder of Canadian source, weighing upward of 15 tons, in the southwestern part of the county, near Epworth. The structural geology of Lewis County is best described as an eastward dipping monocline, unfaulted, but the Paleozoic platform is flexed throughout fingering anticlines and synclines, plunging to the east.

SOILS

Although survey of the county soils has been made, it is reasonable to assume that they are similar to those of other counties having the same geological structure. Soil surveys of Rockcastle, and Mason counties completed under the supervision of the Bureau of Soils, in 1911 and 1904, respectively, are available. The Rockcastle survey should cover the subject of the soils of the central and eastern sections of Lewis County and that of Mason County should be no less applicable to the contiguous Lewis County northwest section.

But from the practical viewpoint fertility of the Lewis County soils depends upon the extent of the erosion into gullies rather than on differences of geological origin.

The best soil in the county is the bottom land along the Ohio River and the lower reaches of its tributaries, and soil of the rolling uplands of the central and northern section is good generally speaking; but South Lincoln County where gullying is prevalent, the soil is too poor to enable its farmers to maintain a decent standard of living.

COVER

Extracts from U.S. Census reports, 1934 and 1929:

Farm Land According to Use (acres)

	<u>1934</u>	<u>1929</u>
Crop land harvested	38,036	38,344
Crop failure (no crop raised)	1,880	1,130
Crop land idle or fallow	6,607	11,206
Total	<u>46,523</u>	<u>50,680</u>
Plowable pasture	34,199	34,118
Woodland pasture	53,456	47,401
Other pasture	13,310	11,368
Total pasture	<u>100,965</u>	<u>92,887</u>
Woodland not pastured	110,349	70,804
All other land in farms	7,695	14,893
Land available for crops	80,722	84,798
All land in farms	<u>265,532</u>	<u>229,264</u>

POPULATION

Extracts from the Census:

Census Years	<u>1900</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1930</u>
Total population	17,868	16,887	15,829	14,315
Negro population	175	141	88	62

Extracts from the 1930 Census:

Since there is no town of 2,500 inhabitants in the county the entire population is listed as rural and then subdivided to 10,829 rural - farm and 3,486 rural non-farm.

Incorporated Towns

Vanceburg	1,388
Quincy	252
Concord	164

Population of school age (7 to 15 years inclusive)	3,147
Population 65 years and older	934
Number of foreign-born white	21

RURAL HOUSING

Census Tables, 1930:

Number of farms and average value of farm dwellings by magisterial districts:

<u>Magisterial District</u>	<u>No. of Farms</u>	<u>Average Value of Farm Dwellings</u>
1	290	\$562
2	367	671
3	226	378
4	308	227
5	268	374
6	260	680
7	364	628
8	113	495
Total and Average Value	2,196	\$613

Housing conditions in Lewis County depends upon the productivity of the land. Roughly, the best housing is found in magisterial district 6, with district 7, 1, 2 and 8 following in that order, the chief reason for their superiority being the rolling to level topography in districts

6 and 7 the rich bottom lands of the Ohio River in districts 1, 2 and 8. The housing in this area is old but well kept. District 5 has some very good homes in the areas where farm land is not rough. Districts 3 and 4 have the worst housing conditions, due mainly to low income level, traceable to the topography. It is this area that the box-type home, lacking all modern conveniences, is found.

URBAN HOUSING

Lewis County having within the census definition, no urban population, the following from the 1930 Census with reference to housing in the rural non-farm category includes that of townsmen and villagers.

	Number
Total non-farm families	915
Owned non-farm homes	419
Value under \$1,500	207
\$1,500 to \$2,999	99
3,000 to 4,999	65
5,000 to 7,499	20
\$7,500 to \$9,999	2
10,000 and over	5
Not reported	25
Median value all owners	\$ 1,426
Native white owners	1,435
Negro owners	- -

WATER SUPPLY

Lewis County is abundantly watered and drained by Kinniconick Creek in the eastern section; Salt Lick Creek in the central, and numerous small streams in the western section, all tributaries of the Ohio River.

Vanceburg has a municipally-owned water system. Water is taken from two deep wells, chlorinated in a 25,000-gallon reservoir and then pumped to a 150,000 gallon stand-pipe in which is maintained a pressure of 71 lbs. to the square inch in the mains. The original indebtedness of \$10,000 is being returned in part. Customers number 172 and 27 fire hydrants are connected with the mains. Farm residents are supplied chiefly from wells.

SANITATION AND STREAM POLLUTION

About 50% of the Vanceburg homes are sewer connected, the untreated sewage passing into the Ohio River. Fully one hundred sanitary toilets are needed in Vanceburg.

Deaths per 10,000		Cause of Deaths	
State as a whole	1912	Lewis County	1912
8.69	20.56	6.28	20.99
1.20	3.52	--	7.19
0.29	0.77	--	0.60
0.48	0.49	--	--
0.11	0.16	--	0.60
5.26	6.45	5.58	9.00
108.00	129.01	95.00	139.80

Following are comparative reports of deaths from specific diseases:

There being no hospitals in the county, patients who require them are sent to Portsmouth, Ohio, or Maysville, Kentucky.

While reports of general health in the county are good, the prevalence of syphilis in Vansburg is causing uneasiness.

Every school child is given a physical examination once a year by the health department.

The public health department consists of one physician, three nurses, two sanitary inspectors, and one secretary, all on full-time basis. The cases of indigents are not cared for by the health department but costs are paid directly by the fiscal court.

PUBLIC HEALTH

While flood control of the Ohio would benefit those who live on its flood plain, such a project could not be greatly aided by the people of Lewis County. A well planned and developed program for the conservation of water in the soil as part of a soil conservation program is about as far as they possibly could go to the end of flood control.

FLOOD CONTROL

The county has no factories to pollute its streams by dumping waste into them; therefore, the water supply should be fairly pure.

Sanitary conditions are by no means good in the rural sections. About 75 % of the wells are polluted, and many of them are open and unprotected against the drainage of surface water. The rural sections would be much benefited by concerted action in the county with a view to general education in sanitation and the reconstruction source of water supply so as to rid them of pollutions.

Vanoeburg employs two policemen. The fire department's combination pump and ladder truck is manned by sixteen volunteers.

NO RECORD OF MOTOR ACCIDENTS IN REPT.

By the census of 1880, 70.3% of those actually employed are engaged in agriculture. The country being predominantly agricultural, farming and business dependent upon it extends most of the year work.

The best farm land in the strip of bottom along the Ohio River and the narrowest bottom along the creek. A measure of filling has been done on these lands, but frequently they took sufficient drainage.

The next best farm land is the comparatively level stretch near the Mason county line, which in point of fertility bears comparison with the bottoms. Third in order is the tract of hilly country that covers the north-central and northwest portions of the county. The worst of the county land is in the south, where erosion is so severe that the population is correspondingly hard pressed.

Farm owners have neglected to combat farm erosion, but gradually they are being brought to see that some of the hillides should not be cultivated, and that eroded surfaces should be protected by cover crops in the winter.

Comparative statistics from the U. S. Census of Agriculture:

Farms—Farm Acreage and Value	
Number of Farms	2,196
Farms operated by full owners	1,666
part owners	153
tenants	1
all tenants	971
croppers	387
Value of farms (land and buildings)	\$4,408,677
Average value per farm	1,666
Average value per acre	16.61
All land in farms (acres)	266,632
Average acreage per farm	59.7
	104.4

Reference is here made to the table under the preceding head, "Cover".

<u>Selected Crops Harvested</u>	<u>1934</u>	<u>1929</u>
Corn for all purposes (acres)	20,327	18,756
Corn for grain (acres)	20,327	18,533
(bushels)	420,394	428,618
Wheat threshed (acres)	613	255
(bushels)	6,309	2,949
Oats threshed (acres)	16	117
(bushels)	184	2,074
Oats out and fed unthreshed (acres)	858	2,357
Tobacco (acres)	2,384	4,056
(pounds)	1,701,060	3,287,247
Irish potatoes (acres)	416	631
(bushels)	21,535	52,668
Sweet potatoes (acres)	121	54
(bushels)	10,593	3,550
All hay for forage (acres)	10,576	10,307

<u>Number of Livestock on Farms</u>	<u>1934</u>	<u>1929</u>
Horses and colts	2,019	2,339
Mules and mule colts	1,192	1,182
Cattle	9,572	7,821
Cows and heifers 2 years and over	5,076	4,863
Sheep and lambs	3,388	4,681
Hogs and pigs	4,266	4,363

Tobacco, the prime crop, is sold through the Maysville market, corn locally, and livestock in Maysville or Flemingsburg.

The county agent is of the opinion that the county should produce more grass and legumes also more sheep and cattle.

In 1935, Mr. Bruce Poundstone, acting as land planning consultant in Kentucky for the National Resources Committee, devised three indices for the magisterial districts of all the counties. These indices, intended to provide a measure of the agricultural prosperity of the different districts, were based on consideration of the following factors:

First Index: (a) value of farm land per acre, (b) value of dwellings per census farm, (c) rural-farm population per square mile of farm land, (d) proportion of census farms classified as self-sufficing and (e) net value of farm products per capita of rural-farm population.

Second Index: There, the measure is that of productivity, on the basis of: (a) value of farm land per acre, (b) value of farm dwellings per acre and (c) net earnings per acre.

Third Index: This one combines the elements of the second rating with the population figure used in the first.

The first, second and third indices for the magisterial districts of Lewis County and adjoining districts in adjacent counties are:

<u>District Number</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>1st Index</u>	<u>2nd Index</u>	<u>3rd Index</u>
1	Lewis	107	87	90
8	Mason	197	133	132
2	Lewis	105	72	77
3	Lewis	68	50	59
5	Greenup	70	45	55
2	Carter	63	55	58
4	Lewis	83	39	46
2	Carter	63	55	58
4	Carter	63	67	67
3	Carter	69	82	79
4	Rowan	63	36	47
5	Lewis	98	44	59
2	Fleming	109	86	92
4	Rowan	63	36	47
6	Lewis	110	78	84
2	Fleming	109	86	92
3	Fleming	122	106	108
8	Mason	197	133	132
7	Lewis	110	92	95
8	Mason	197	133	132
8	Lewis	104	71	77
3	Greenup	79	74	76
4	Greenup	114	122	115
5	Greenup	70	45	55

The highest rating in the state is 598 for the first index of the eighth magisterial district of Fayette County, and the lowest first index is 34, for the sixth district of McCreary County.

MINERAL SITUATION

"The principal mineral resource of Lewis County is its limestone, which is present in unlimited quantities, suitable for high-

way, railroad bed and general building construction. Some highly calcareous limestone of Upper Mississippian age, present in the high knobs of eastern Lewis County, are suitable for agricultural purposes. Oil and gas in small quantities have been brought in, but production on a commercial scale has not come as of 1927, although prospects for the development of small pools are reasonably assured due to the fact that the "coniferous" (Devonian) limestone, (so productive in the Bethel, Powell, Lee, Wolfe district) underlies most of Lewis County at practicable drilling depths. Ohio (Devonian) black shales from which oil can be extracted also are present all through the northwestern part of Lewis County in unlimited quantities, constituting a vast store of material from which to take petroleum in the future. Clays suitable for brick-making besides sand and gravel for general construction and highway work, are present in the northern part of the county, particularly in the flood plain and channel of the Ohio River.

Despite the presence of more resources, little effort to utilize them has been made. The 1920 census reported but two persons in the county engaged in mining.

MANUFACTURING

Lewis County has a shoe factory, its only manufacturing establishment. At full capacity 312 workers are employed. As of 1927, the working force numbered about 200.

TRADE

Vannoburg is the trade and banking center of Lewis County. Trade data from the U. S. Census of Business:

WHOLESALE TRADE

Census Year	Number of establishments	Net sales	Full-time employees	Full-time payroll	Total employees	Total payroll
1926	3	\$62,000	-	-	5	7,000
1925	3	\$168,000	12	8,000	-	-

RETAIL TRADE

Census Year	<u>1935</u>	<u>1933</u>	<u>1929</u>
Number of stores	136	122	131
Net sales	\$1,063,000	\$705,000	\$1,174,000
Proprietors	139	144	143
Full-time employees	--	40	72
Full- and part-time employees	79	--	--
Total pay roll	\$42,000	\$30,000	\$59,000

PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS

Lewis County physicians are 6 in number, its dentists, 2 and lawyers 6. The ratio of the farmer to population is 1 to 2,586, as compared to the corresponding State ratio of 1 to 1,107, exclusive of Jefferson County.

SERVICE OCCUPATIONS

Census report of service occupations and places of amusement:

Census Year	<u>1935</u>	<u>1933</u>
Number of establishments	26	24
Net receipts	\$40,000	\$19,720
Proprietors	28	24
Full- and part-time employees	15	5
Total pay roll	\$6,000	\$2,586

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

As we have seen, the one great natural resource of Lewis County is its soil. When the country was first invaded by the white man it was heavily covered with hardwood forests and it is only within recent years that the income derived from them has all but vanished.

On the counts of both soil and climate the county is natural forest land. The southern and southeastern portions, because of their extremely rough terrain and the prevalence of gullies are probably incapable of supporting a population by farming. Thus these sections should be retired and devoted to scientific, protected reforestation. Farm land at its worst may prove to be excellent for woodland, and in time, reforestation of these areas might make them profitable.

Meanwhile, conservation of farmland under the Federal Conservation Program, has taken hold. More than 1,250 farmers have signed to take part in the program, and about \$70,000 annually will be applied to the protection and improvement of crop soil.

HIGHWAYS

By 1935 report of the Kentucky Highway Commission, the mileage of state maintained highways in Lewis County was: 24.7 miles of gravel and 20.8 miles of black top construction, a total of 45.5 miles. County roads, improved and unimproved total 447 miles. Better roads are needed in this county.

TRANSPORTATION

The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, which parallels the Ohio River through the entire northern boundary of the county, provides the northern section with an adequate freight and passenger service. State maintained highways connect Vaneburg closely with the surrounding county seats and business centers of Maysville, Flemingburg and Olive Hill in Kentucky and Portsmouth in Ohio. Indeed, it is said that not a little local trade is lost to the county, because the highways leading out of it are good.

RECREATION

The County maintains no recreation centers. Such public recreation as it affords is provided by the schools.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The County Courthouse is a two-story brick building, with electric lights and coal stove heating.

The County Jail is a one-story stone building, lighted by electricity but otherwise in bad condition.

The County Poor Farm is well kept.

POWER SITUATION

Electricity for power and lights is sufficient at the following rates:

Residence, Vaneburg

Minimum bill	\$1.00
1st 30 Kw. H.	@ .09
Next 30 "	@ .06
" 30 "	@ .04
Excess "	@ .03

Residence, Rural

Minimum bill	\$1.50
1st 25 Kw. H.	@ .10
Next 25 "	@ .06
Next 50 "	@ .04
Excess "	@ .03

Commercial, Varnoburg and Rural

Minimum \$11.00	1st 50 Km. H.	10
	Next 50 "	09
	Next 200 "	06
	Next 300 "	04
	Excess	03 1/2

The company has about 700 customers, and maintain about 14 miles of rural service lines.

EDUCATION

The County School System

One-teacher schools
Two-teacher schools
Consolidated schools
Number of colored schools
Number of school buses operated
Condition of roads used by them
Cost per pupil for transportation
Special courses taught

Only 1 Good Highway
14.16
Have Bonanzas and Vocational Agriculture at County High Schools

Football, baseball and basketball.

Next on Kinnisonick Road

Next Glen Springs (starbed)
Additions to Garrison
Petersville and Concord.

60¢ and 80¢ per \$100 valuation
\$12,000 P.W.A. Project
at Tollyboro.

\$48,000 county and franchise
\$46,000 per capita.

No.

\$97,964.54 (1936-37)

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Rate

are improved type of toilets installed? In some schools as funds are available.
Elementary, \$81.00 per month
High School \$122.00 "

Average pay of teachers

Approximate cost of operation
Least number of pupils in any school

Present condition of buildings

Are school funds sufficient?

Anticipated income

County Taxation

New school buildings started
or proposed

Possible future consolidation

Recreational facilities

TAXATION

Budget -- 1937-38

Anticipated Income

Real Estate	\$22,846.22
Tangible Personal Property	1,022.48
Bank Shares	56.00
Franchise Corporation	41,414.27
Poll Tax	1,044.00
Delinquent Taxes	400.00
Truck Licenses	4,500.00
Fines and Forfeitures	50.00
Less allowable deductions	4,900.00
	<u>\$66,416.97</u>

Appropriations

General fund	\$27,181.63
Road & bridges	21,867.67
Sinking fund	<u>17,367.67</u>
Total	<u>\$66,416.97</u>

County Bonded Debt. \$279,000

Date	Amount	Term	Rate	Outstanding	Yearly Interest	To be Retired 1937-38
3/1/28	\$200,000	30 yrs.	3 3/4%	\$178,000	\$8,455.00	\$5,000
5/1/28	110,000	40 "	4 3/4%	101,000	4,797.50	
Total				<u>\$279,000</u>		

LOCAL PLANNING

In view of recent developments, it is generally conceded that questions of land use, industrial development, public works, education, public health and recreation affecting the social and economic well-being of the people of a county should be intelligently studied and planned for, and that such studies should be undertaken by Federal, State and local agencies, to the end that such a contribution to the interest of the county should have, not only the benefit of knowledge of local conditions, but the accumulated knowledge and experience of the larger planning organizations as well.

Lewis County has no planning organization, except the Land Use Committee, organized under the soil conservation program. At the same time, the contribution of a studying and planning organization, with its knowledge of local conditions would be a valuable addition to information already on hand; and it would aid materially in the logical, orderly and steady development and betterment of the county. Although there is no law authorizing appointment of a zoning or planning board in counties, public spirited citizens nevertheless, should assemble regularly to consider and study county affairs. And inasmuch as local business is almost exclusively agricultural or dependent upon agriculture, a good step for the Land Use Committee seems to be that of extending its field to include general county problems as well as land use. In any such undertaking the State Planning Staff will extend every assistance possible.

Nora Liley
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(w PA)

FOLKLORE

(Lewis County)

In 1865 Isaac Car ran a hotel on the banks of the Ohio near Vanceburg. A fight took place here one day and a Mr. Larkin Liles bit the ear off of Ed Campbell. He was arrested, tried and sentenced to serve a year in the penitentiary, W. P. Parker, then sheriff of the county, was to accompany the prisoner to Frankfort. He asked the sheriff to give him permission to go home, put his corn in the crib, and cut sufficient wood to last his family through the winter. Then he would meet him in Vanceburg at an appointed hour. The sheriff granted his request and on the appointed day he came to Vanceburg to tell the sheriff he would take his gun and hunt through the country on his way to Frankfort while the sheriff traveled in the stage. Mr. Liles arrived in Frankfort before the sheriff, reported to the Governor and told his story. The Governor said he could not put him in the penitentiary until the sheriff arrived with the necessary papers. When the sheriff reached Frankfort he found his prisoner asleep on the steps of one of the capitol buildings. After Mr. Liles' story had been verified by the sheriff, the Governor freed the prisoner and he returned to his family. /1

A Mr. Lee murdered a Mr. Bob Ellis of Vanceburg due to jealousy over his wife. Mr. Lee was put in jail and an outraged mob took him from jail and led him to a large tree about one-fourth mile from Vanceburg and hanged him. This tree has been known as the "Hanging Tree" since.

Jesse Henderson of Vanceburg says dimly outlined on a large birch tree about one-half mile from Scott Branch may be seen the inscription that Daniel Boone killed a panther on this tree, and the date it was killed. /2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- /1 Related by a Mr. Plummer of Vanceburg, Kentucky.
- /2 Mr. P. C. Henderson, Maysville, Kentucky, a former resident of Lewis County.

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"I know that geologists will and do say that the geological conditions of Southern Ohio and Northern Kentucky preclude the possibility of the precious metals, but since the declaration of these geologists silver has been discovered in Adams County, Ohio, and I speak the words of truth when I say that I know there are rich silver mines in Lewis and Carter Counties; and further, some as rich specimens of gold quartz as I ever saw were found on the dividing ridge between main Kinny and Triplet Creek. I have been in many placer gold mines, and I wish to say with emphasis that the locality here named shows every evidence of free gold. Has there ever been a single panful of dirt washed in all this region?' (W.R. Beatty)

'Mr. Sprinkle's Good Dollars

"I saw by the papers the other day where ~~(kink)~~ three of the famous 'Sprinkle' dollars had shown up," said F.L. Strowbridge, of Peoria, Ill. to a Washington Times reporter.

"Do you know what the 'Sprinkle' dollars were? No? Well, Josiah Sprinkle, the man in question, lived in one of the roughest sections of Lewis County, Kentucky. Washington, the county seat of Mason, was then a thriving town. One day Sprinkle, then an old man, appeared at Washington with a buckskin pouch full of silver dollars of his ownmake.

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"In every respect they appeared the equal of the national coin. The weight was more than ~~(silver)~~ at present, and the quality and the ring were all that could be asked for. He spent them freely and everybody accepted them upon the assurance of Sprinkle that they were all right, except that they were not made by the United States Mint. Upon being asked where he got the silver, he replied, "Oh, it doesn't matter. There is plenty of it left." The inscriptions on the coins were rudely outlined, and in no wise was an attempt made at imitating the national coin. On one side of the coin was an owl, and on the other a six-pointed star. The edges were smooth. The coins were considerably larger and thicker than the United States coin. Whenever Sprinkle came to town he spent the dollars of his own make.

"At one time he volunteered the information that he had a silver mine in the West, but the old man refused to tell any one where it was located. Finally the government agents heard of the matter and came on to investigate. Sprinkle was arrested and brought into court, but the dollars were proved to be pure silver, without alloy, worth, in fact, a trifle more than one dollar each. After an exciting trial he was acquitted. When the verdict was announced Sprinkle ~~(d)~~ reached down in his pocket and drew out a bag of fifty of the coins and paid his attorney in the presence of the astonished officials. Sprinkle was never afterwards bothered, and continued to make the dollars until the time of his death. He died suddenly and carried the secret of his silver mine with him. This was in the early thirties, and it has been twenty years since a Sprinkle dollar has been found."

(1836)

"Isaac Carr used to run a hotel that was situated on the river bank, at Vanceburg, just in front of where the Birely flouring mill now stands. In one of the carousals at the inn a general fight took place, and Larkin Liles, of Kinny (sic) bit off the lip of Ed. Campbell. He was sentenced by the court to serve one year in the penitentiary for his offense. W. B. Parker, who was sheriff at the time, was to take him to Frankfort. Mr. Liles told him that, as it was now fall, and that his corn needed cutting and his family would need wood for the winter, that he would go home and attend to these matters and then meet him in Vanceburg on a certain day, ready to make the trip to Frankfort. Strange as it may seem now, the sheriff consented to this arrangement, and on the appointed day, true to his promise, Mr. Liles appeared. He then told the sheriff that he would walk through the country to Frankfort, and that he could go round by the stage route and meet him there. This was also agreed to, and Mr. Liles reached the capital several days in advance of the sheriff. Not being able to find Mr. Parker, Liles reported to the governor, to whom he told the whole story, and also said that he was ready to go to the prison and commence serving out his time. The governor informed him that he had no right to commit him to prison till the officer should arrive with the necessary papers and identify him as the prisoner. He waited till the sheriff arrived, and when he did so and vouched for the correctness of Mr. Liles' story, the governor pardoned him, and he and Mr. Parker came back home together."

(History of Lewis County, Kentucky, by the Rev. O.G. Ragan, Pastor, Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, Newport, Ky., 1st edition, Cincy, O., 1912. (UK Film 1097), Pp. 501-3.)

"The following anecdote of Thos. Stratton and William Sympson is told by the older people at Vanceburg:

'In the long time ago, when the wild turkey still inhabited the hills of Salt Lick, Thos. Stratton and William Sympson were out hunting, but both unconscious of the other being near him. Both of them heard a turkey gobbling and went in his direction, but from the side of opposite hills the turkey was sighted in an oak field in the hollow where Thos. Case lived. Both men saw the turkey and fired at the same time, and as he was killed, both went for the game. When they met in the field both claimed the turkey, and each showed the other how he killed the bird by the wound on his side which was toward him. They could not decide the matter, and agreed to take the turkey to Captain Mitchell, who lived near, and have it cooked for their dinner. In dressing the bird Mrs. Mitchell found two bullets welded together in the middle of its carcass. This revealed the mystery--both had hit it, and their shots had met in its body, with the result above named."

(HISTORY OF LEWIS COUNTY, KENTUCKY, by the Rev.
O.G. Ragan, Pastor, Grace Methodist Episcopal Church,
Newport, Ky., 1st edition, Cincy, 1912 (UK Film #1097)
(P. 490-1)